



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY
EDGAR SNOWDEN.

FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 6, 1878

Some of the preachers of Richmond having the credit and morality of the people of the State at heart, signed the call we published the other day, for the organization of societies in the several cities and counties of the State to urge upon the people the importance of sending men to the General Assembly in favor of a fair and honorable settlement of the State debt. For this they, individually and collectively, have been criticised severely by the Richmond Whig. Now while our objections to the interference of preachers in political affairs are as emphatic as were those of President Hayes, a short time ago, to the interference of officeholders in the same matters, as the preachers referred to are Virginians, as are much interested in the welfare of their State as any of their fellow citizens, and certainly should be regarded of the morality of the people whose religious teachers they are, we don't see why their action in the case alluded to renders them at all liable to the strictures of the Whig. They are one and all christian gentlemen, and their desire to maintain the credit of the State and the honor and honesty of her people can not properly be looked upon as an ordinary interference in common politics, and should not have subjected them to the treatment they have received.

Now that the consular and diplomatic appropriation bill has been reported, it would be a good time to abolish the whole costly and useless diplomatic service. Steam and electricity have entirely done away with the necessity of a service that was only useful before those cheap and speedy messengers between foreign governments came into operation. The late diplomatic correspondence between the United States and England regarding the fishery award was conducted entirely by direct communications between Secretary Evans and Lord Salisbury, the American minister, merely acting as a messenger in delivering the letters. What is true with regard to the conduct of diplomatic relations with Great Britain is equally true respecting those of all other foreign governments, and as the salaries of those in the diplomatic service are paid in gold, and as all the gold the government now has is wanted to facilitate its specie payment resumption on the first of the new year, there could be no more appropriate time to abolish the service and save the country the millions spent on it than the present.

The determination of the Secretary of the Treasury to receive greenbacks as equivalents for gold at all the custom houses in the country, to give those who wish to exchange greenbacks for coin the option of receiving either gold or silver, to pay all the debts of the country in greenbacks, silver or gold as the creditors may select, his authority to purchase as much gold as he may require by the sale of bonds—all this, and besides, the avowed intention and self interests of the banks to assist him in the execution of the resumption law, put the success of specie payment resumption beyond a peradventure. There will be no marked improvement in the condition of the affairs of the country immediately upon the accomplishment of specie resumption, but everybody will then have the satisfaction of knowing his exact pecuniary status, the quality of stability will be attached to the currency, and people disposed to commence business or start new enterprises will not be deterred in the future, as they have been in the past, by the fear of having to receive money worth less than it was when they paid it out.

Now that the Supreme Court has again decided, in the Back of Tennessee case, that no State was out of the Union during the civil war, how about the constitutional existence of the State of West Virginia? Surely the State of Virginia never consented to a division of her own territory, and without such consent West Virginia has no more constitutional right to a State government than East Tennessee. In the light of the disregard in which both State and national constitutions are now held, such allusions as this, even to the writers thereof, seem ridiculous, and they are only made when the contrast between the present and the times when things were not as they are, is brought out in such strong colors as that presented by the case to which we refer.

Stonewall Jackson's commissary general, Gen. N. P. Banks, who, deceived by the Greeley movement, as more recently many of the democratic leaders were by the greenback vagary, deserted the radical party, but availed himself of the first favorable opportunity for getting back, having been elected by his constituents to stay at home during the next session of Congress, is an applicant for the position of U. S. marshal of Massachusetts. The love of office in some men is unquestionable. Having once tasted it they forever mope law for it in every place in which it is likely to be found.

You may break; you may shatter the vase if you will. But the scent of the roses will hang around it still.

Mr. Henkel, of Shenandoah county, has introduced in the House of Delegates a bill which proposes that the Auditor shall issue through the Superintendent of Public Instruction to the school superintendent of every county a tax receivable warrant to the amount estimated to be the apportionment for the year for his county; the Auditor's warrant to be deposited with the county treasurer as a fund upon which the superintendent of the county may draw his warrants for the pay of teachers, &c., the

county treasurer to pay such warrants, or to receive them at their face value in payment of all State taxes.

A resolution has been introduced in the State Senate to abolish the office of county judge and to substitute the old magisterial court; also to abolish the office of county superintendent of schools.

The report of the State Board of Censors shows that in this, the Eighth District, the vote for member of the House of Representatives at the late election was:—Hunt, 5,772; Carter, 1,119, and Cochrane, 505.

The Washington Post has entered upon its second year with prospects bright and brightening. The Post is a deservedly popular paper.

Wade Hampton has again assumed his gubernatorial functions despite his illness.

E. D. White aged 111 years, died at San Francisco yesterday.

J. R. M. Johnson, mayor of Grafton, W. Va., died of consumption on Wednesday.

A man was killed and two others injured Wednesday by the falling of a rock several rods off the top of the Versteil copper mine at El Vermont.

The steamship Herman Lubwig, which sailed from New York September 28 for Antwerp, has not yet been heard from, and fears are entertained for her safety.

The extensive flour mill and elevator works at the Pacific Mills, Brooklyn were entirely destroyed by fire Wednesday evening, involving a loss of about \$200,000.

The late fresher in the Savage river, W. Va., by night down upwards of eight thousand white pine sawlogs and laid them in a pile at the mills of the Leitch Lumber Company, near Bloomington.

Judgments for deficiencies have just been entered in five or six foreclosure suits by the New York Life Insurance Company in the Commercial Court in New York city, the total amounting to \$146,542.64.

James McDowell and Martin Barcott, the Mollie Maguire, will be executed on the 18th inst. at the Pennsylvania Board of Pardons having refused to recommend pardon or commutation of their sentences.

A large mass meeting of leading citizens was held in New Orleans last night and resolutions were passed thanking the people of the whole country for the aid extended to the afflicted people in the South during the yellow fever epidemic.

The Philadelphia city council's committee on police have requested Mayor Stickley to insert an item in his forthcoming messages recommending an appropriation of \$10,000 to be used in the purchase of horses and equipments for a projected mounted police force in that city.

The supposed Charles Ross, who was said to have brought to Terry township, Bradford county, Pa., from Vermont, was visited by Mr. Ross, and after a thorough investigation that gentleman returned to Philadelphia satisfied that the boy was not his Charles.

In New York Wednesday night, whilst Rev. Dr. Bell was seated in his study in Trinity Episcopal Seminary on Ninth avenue, the report of a pistol was heard and a ball crashed through a window pane, passing close by his head, lodging in the wall behind. Dr. Bell hurried to the window just in time to see a man running rapidly away.

Sackett, Davis & Co., one of the oldest and heaviest manufacturing jewelry houses in Providence, R. I., has made a most convenient arrangement for the benefit of their creditors. Their liabilities are about \$200,000. The firm estimate the value of their property in Providence, Newark, and New Jersey City, N. J., and other places at three times the amount of their liabilities.

The New York Chamber of Commerce yesterday adopted resolutions requesting Congress to make duties receivable in certified gold checks, and in favor of a uniform rate of postage for printed series. The subject of sensational reports of urticaria adulteration was discussed and resolutions adopted calling on the board of health to ascertain the facts, expressing the opinion that consumers have no cause for apprehension, and deprecating the publication of charges of customs frauds cynically blended with those of adulteration.

Dr. Mary Walker was arrested in New York yesterday while promenading Broadway, followed by a crowd of boys. She was taken to the Superintendent's office, and the officer making the arrest presented the charge that she was "a woman in male attire." "How do you know I am a woman?" she indignantly asked. The superintendent asked her name, which she gave as "Dr. Mary Walker, American citizen." She was discharged, as she was so well known, and she proceeded forthwith to her home, and action against the policeman for arresting her.

Virginia News.

Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, who has been confined to his house in Richmond for some time with a sprained ankle, was out yesterday on the street.

The steamship Aurora, with 3,200 tons of cargo, and the ship America, with 4,400 tons of cargo, sailed from Norfolk for Liverpool yesterday.

Rev. T. E. Eaton has resigned the pastorate of the First Baptist Church, Petersburg, but the membership has declined to accept the resignation.

Hundreds of barrels of A. B. marble plinths and other varieties of apples have recently been sent to New York from Albemarle and Nelson counties, for shipment to England, where they command top prices.

At an entertainment by colored people in Mt. Vernon, Charles C. Gray, Saturday evening, Mark White, without provocation, shot James Brown with a pistol, inflicting what is supposed will prove a mortal wound. White was lodged in jail.

The Richmond and Allegheny Railroad Company has accepted the terms of the proposition of the James River and Kanawha Canal Co. for the transfer of the property of the latter to the railroad company, which has agreed to build a railroad between Richmond and Buchanan, within twenty months.

Dead.

MONROVIA, N. J., Dec. 6.—Eugene P. Blackley, the oldest and most respected citizen of this city, died last night, aged 85 years. Some years ago he was a well known drug dealer in New York. He has used much of the fortune which he accumulated in works of charity.

COURT OF APPEALS, YESTERDAY.—Thon vs. Commonwealth, from the Hustings court of the city of Richmond. Affirmed, Judge Monroe delivering the opinion of the court. This case is the test case upon Judge Christian's construction of the Sunday liquor law, and the court sustains that construction. The decision of Judge Christian was that in a Richmond city ordinance did not cover the grounds for which the state law was enacted and that therefore the latter was operative in Richmond.

McDeermar's executor vs. Robertson, &c., from the Circuit court of Appomattox county. Affirmed, Judge Christian delivering the opinion of the court.

Thompson vs. Commonwealth, from the Hustings court of the city of Richmond. Reversed, Judge Staples delivering the opinion of the court.

King's executor vs. Malone and sons, from the Circuit court of Dinwiddie county. Reversed, Judge Burks delivering the opinion of the court.

Letters from Richmond.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]
RICHMOND, Dec. 4.—Contrary to prevalent Messrs. E. H. Fisher and W. D. Chestnut, who have heretofore "gotten out" the Governor's message in supplement form, were denied the message by Governor Holliday, this year, in time to fill orders from papers in various parts of the State for about 13,000 copies. Heretofore these gentlemen have guarded sacredly the confidence placed in them by the Executive, and have made arrangements with the papers patronizing them so as to prevent the message from being seen until it had been presented to the General Assembly. This year they had received an unusual number of orders, and including the circulation of the Richmond papers, the message would have been read by at least 50,000 persons, probably more.

The city looks quite lively now. Besides our country cousins in attendance on the Legislature, there are a good many strangers from the North and West.

Miss Katie Putnam, who has been performing at the theatre, is said to be quite ill. She has had several hemorrhages of the lungs with in the past two days.

Manager Powell promises our citizens a succession of good dramatic performances at the theatre this month.

The advocates of the Richmond and Allegheny Railroad Company are somewhat heartened at the slim prospect of the conflict with the James River and Kanawha Canal Company, by the Legislature. There seems to be a very strong opposition to the scheme in both the Senate and the House.

The tobacco manufacturers of this city are complaining of the dullness of the times. A number of them are working off for the year. The present stagnation is attributed, by the trade generally, to the meeting of Congress and the expectation of the probable agitation of the tax on manufactured tobacco.

RICHMOND, VA., Dec. 5, 1878.—As usual the first two days of legislative session have closed without either body doing much of importance. In fact, as yet, there is nothing much before the houses of the General Assembly.

In the House Mr. Fanstler introduced a resolution looking into the expediency of calling a constitutional convention. The early period of the session in which this scheme has been begun indicates that it will be one of the most prominent questions before the Legislature. The move contemplated in this direction has some warm supporters and also some warm opponents. It is probable that it will be the first question before the Legislature. Mr. Fanstler is the member from Frederick and an ardent seceder. He urged the call of a constitutional convention or rather the passage of a resolution looking to that end while he was in the Legislature last year.

There are perhaps fifteen or twenty members who have not yet put in an appearance. A man was put in the assertion to day that many of the members had collected all the taxes of the people in their counties and brought them down with them and turned the money over to the Auditor after which the said members ran up stairs got their certificates and drew out two days pay. It is as malicious as the statement of a jolly member from the southwest who said that he came down on the train with six other members and upon arriving it was found that each man had an extra trunk full of clean shirts, ham sandwiches, towels and such things—in fact, they were ready and fired for camping out for a week in the event of an injunction.

As your correspondent predicted yesterday the indications are that the session will be of the usual length and perhaps one of the most important held since the war.

The extremists on both sides seem this year more disposed to meet each other half way and it is safe to indulge the hope that the debt question will be settled in some way.

The old members miss from the corps of clerks the loss of Mr. Ross, so long a familiar face and who did last summer.

In Richmond just now every man, woman and child is whistling "Nancy Lee." A business house gives the song (music and words) away, together with the business card of the house printed on Nancy Lee's head.

The Legislature, it is evident, has no idea of accepting the proposition of Baring, Rothschild & Co., in relation to the settlement of the debts.

Foreign News.

The Emperor and Empress of Germany were received with great enthusiasm in Berlin. The Emperor on alighting at the railway station, was met by the assembled legislators and officers of the Government, and made speeches, thanking them for their sympathy in his great affliction, and insisting that the unhealthy spots in the social system can only be healed by the strong hand of law. In the parade past the palace appeared a large number of Americans bearing the stars and stripes. Decrees have been promulgated announcing that the Emperor resumes the government from to day, and that the Crown Prince for his successful and devoted performance of the imperial functions and his disinterested service of the principles laid down by the Emperor.

Detailed reports of the fighting in the Peiwar Pass show that the Afghans, who were posted in some pine woods, resisted Gen. Roberts' advance movement on Peiwar Khotul most obstinately. Sometimes they even assumed the offensive, but pressing the most advanced troops until reinforcements came up. Not a single body of the Afghans remained unbroken at the end of the day.

It is rumored that another convention between England and Turkey exists to England the port of Alexandria, a seaport of North Syria, on the coast of the Bay of Lebanon.

Garibaldi, writing in relation to the Italian Ministerial crisis, says the future of the world is in the hands of the Italian people.

The question of suppressing republicanism as well as internationalism was urged in the Italian Parliament yesterday.

LATER.

LONDON, Dec. 6.—The London correspondent of the Edinburgh Scotsman says:—"To influential quarters it is believed that an arrangement with Russia for the settlement of the Central Asia question is on the tapis and that it is likely to assume the form of a partition of Afghanistan."

The Edinburgh Scotsman's London correspondent says:—"Agents of the conservative party have issued a circular advising the Tory managers in the country to be prepared for the eventuality of a general election."

LONDON, Dec. 6.—Lord Cranbrook, Secretary of State for India in the House of Lords, and Hon. Edward Stanshope, Under Secretary of State for India in the House of Commons, will on Monday move an identical resolution as follows:—

"Resolved, That Her Majesty having directed a military expedition of her force, charged upon the Indian revenues, to be dispatched against the Ameer of Afghanistan, this House consents that the revenues of India shall be applied to defray the expenses of the military operations which may be carried on beyond the external frontiers of Her Majesty's Indian possessions."

This does not imply that the burden of the war will ultimately fall wholly or partially on India. The resolution does not raise that issue. It frames in compromise with the act of 1853, which provided, that except for preventing or repelling invasion or under other sudden and urgent necessity, the consent of both Houses of Parliament must be obtained before any part of the revenues of India can be applied to de-

fray the expenses of any military operation beyond the frontier of India.

The above concurrent resolution will raise the whole question of the government policy in both Houses of Parliament, the question of distribution of the burdens of the war, being left for future decision.

LONDON, Nov. 6.—A dispatch from Vienna to the Daily Telegraph says:—"The ministerial crisis at Constantinople has produced a very unfavorable impression here. Kheddiddi Pasha the great Grand Vizier, is one of Austria's bitterest adversaries. He urged the Sultan to forcibly resist the Austrian occupation of Turkish territory. He is regarded here as an unscrupulous schemer, capable of basest treachery to ruin his country. The change of ministry is believed to be mainly attributable to Russian intrigues."

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 6.—The ministers of the powers will meet to-day at the Austrian Embassy and arrange the difficulties connected with the limitation of the Roumanian frontier, the governments having authorized their ambassadors to deal with the question.

LONDON, Dec. 6.—The Daily Telegraph says:—"A hundred mill operatives have been thrown out of employment."

LONDON, Dec. 6.—At the Nottingham Police Court, yesterday, Geo. R. Frederick Bell, formerly of Brock, N. Y., brought an action for libel against Mr. Stevenson, a solicitor, and the Rev. Richard Griffiths, a Baptist minister, for circulating handbills, charging the Rev. Mr. Bell with immoral conduct with a servant of the house where he was a guest. Mr. Bell was holding a religious revival meeting in Nottingham at the time and was drawing large audiences. The case has been adjourned for one week.

The Queen's speech.

In the British House of Lords yesterday the address in reply to the royal speech was moved and the debate began. Earl Granville complained of several omissions in the Queen's speech, particularly of the absence of any mention of the war in South Africa, which was viewed with great anxiety by those best acquainted with the colony. He said he did not intend to move any amendment to the address, because of the lateness of the publication of the correspondence concerning Central Asia. He would not make any great difference to Parliament whether it met now or next February, as far as any influence it could exercise on the war which has already been commenced. Nobody doubted the absolute prerogative of the Crown to make war or peace, but it is perfectly certain that a continual recurrence of such surprises would seriously weaken the foundations of the prerogative. He repeated the accusations that Lord Cranbrook's dispatch misrepresented the conduct of the Gladsstone government, and Lord Lytton's communication to the Ameer of Afghanistan was harsh and intemperate. He concluded as follows:—"However unnecessary the war may have been, however much we may be convinced that you have completely played into the hands of our great rival, we urge this House to cooperate in the strongest manner with the House of Commons, to make the most ample provision for the sake of our gallant troops. We trust the Government has not made fallacious estimates, understating the expenditure, as to the Afghan war."

Lord Cranbrook, Secretary of State for India, declared that he accepted the entire responsibility for his dispatch, and would not withdraw a single sentence. He made a detailed statement in justification, and particularly pointed out that Lord Granville in 1873 declared it to be his duty to resist any aggression on Afghanistan would meet with British resistance.

Lord Grey moved an amendment to the address, expressing regret that Parliament was not summoned as soon as possible after war became probable.

The Duke of Somerset cordially supported the prosecution of the war.

The Marquis of Salisbury, Secretary of State for the Foreign Department, replied the personal charges that he had received Parliament by denying that he had been guilty of policy towards Afghanistan. He said they were brought forward by Lord Granville to distract the country's attention from the fact that his most attached political friends were siding with the enemies of their country.

Lord Beaconsfield then addressed the House. He criticised the attitude of the Opposition in raising personal questions, and challenged them to attack directly the justice and policy of the war. He stated that the inspection of Cyprus by his colleague showed that the island was passed all the Government's expectations, and would soon be recognized as one of the most important positions in the British dominions. He expressed the opinion that the result of the victory of General Roberts in Afghanistan would be speedy and satisfactory. He believed the worst of the commercial depression was over, and expected that in a year the position of affairs would be very different. He added, in reference to business prospects, "The recent words of the President of the United States, coming from such a quarter as such a subject, cannot be treated with much consideration. Enterprise in America reacts on that of England. I look forward with much confidence to the influence of American industry and enterprise shortly producing more favorable results than we can now estimate."

In conclusion, he said, the Government were prepared to meet the Parliament's decision, however it might affect the Ministry individually, but he hoped the House would decide to maintain the Empire and not sanction a policy which mistakes timidity for wisdom.

The amendment moved by Earl Grey was rejected, and the address adopted without a division.

In the debate on the address in the House of Commons, the Marquis of Hartington made a declaration similar to that of Lord Granville in the upper house, of the intention of himself and his friends not to hamper the Government in the conduct of the war by any attempt to oppose the granting of supplies. He said the war having been commenced, it was necessary for the security of India, and the safety of the Empire, that the House should vote in favor of the hope that the House would have more information before a vote of credit was asked.

Sir Stafford Northcote, Chancellor of the Exchequer, generally reassured Mr. Gladstone and Lord Hartington as to the supplies which they complained were not mentioned in the Queen's speech, particularly as to the war in South Africa and on the reforms in Crete and Asia Minor. He denied that the Government had purposely picked a quarrel with the Ameer, or desired an extension of territory.

The address was adopted by the House without a division.

DEATHS.—Lycurgus Smith, died at his residence near the Plains, in Fauquier county, on Saturday morning last. He was taken sick on Friday evening.

Robert Holzclaw, was suddenly taken sick at Carter's hill church, on last Saturday, and died in a few hours afterwards.

Buckett Petty, a brother of Mrs. Deshields of this place, died at Froom Road, Va., on Saturday last.—Warrenton Solid South.

The Action of Judge Rives.

RICHMOND, VA., Dec. 6.—The action of Judge Rives, of the United States Court, taking from the State Circuit Court two negroes on trial for murder, on the ground that they were denied colored jurors, has created some commotion. The Governor and Attorney General have sent to the Judge of the Circuit Court of Patrick county, who tried the negroes, for a report in the case, and to the Clerk for a copy of the record, which information will be furnished the Senate.

Virginia Legislature.

In the Senate, yesterday, Messrs. Koiner, Brooke, Bland, Daniel and Fulkerson were appointed as the committee to ascertain the status of the present session of the Legislature.

Messrs. Koiner and Brooke asked to be excused from serving upon the committee.

Mr. Brooke thought that some senator who was committed to the idea that some expression should be made as to the status of this session should be placed upon that committee, but the Senate declined to excuse.

Bills were introduced and referred, to provide for the settlement of the public debt and the payment of a uniform rate of interest thereon, and imposing a tax and prescribing regulations for the collection of the same.

Mr. Brooke offered the following joint resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the joint committee, as to the status of the General Assembly, be empowered and instructed to inquire and report—

1. Whether some legislative policy may not require that this General Assembly refrain from any declaration to its status and proceed with its business in the usual and regular form.

2. Whether any, and if any, legislation can be had, the effect of which will be, in any event, to render the action of this body constitutional and legal under any judicial view which may be taken as to its proper constitutional status.

The House joint resolution providing for the election of circuit judges on Thursday, the 12th, was amended by inserting Friday, the 13th for Thursday, the 12th, and then passed.

A resolution was adopted to investigate certain charges against W. E. Hinton, a member of the Senate from Petersburg, in obtaining the passage of a bill to extend a credit of twelve and twenty months from the ratification of the sale of the State's interest in the Upper Appomattox Company to the Board of Superintendents of said company.

In the House of Delegates among the bills and resolutions introduced was a bill to provide for the settlement of the public debt, and a petition from citizens of Frederick in relation to public free schools.

The Speaker announced that the standing committee of the House will remain the same as they were at the last session.

A communication from James E. Goode, preferring charges against R. E. Frayser, the Superintendent of Public Printing, was referred to the Committee on Printing. The charges are incompetency and utter disregard of trust in taking the clause of the oath relative to his practical knowledge of the printing business, and falsifying the records, by getting and otherwise, so as to present a more favorable showing for himself in his report to the General Assembly.

A joint resolution fixing next Thursday as the time to elect circuit judges was agreed to.

A resolution was offered to allow members to get copies of the Code and Acts of the Assembly from the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Southern Commercial Convention.

In the Commercial Convention, in session in New Orleans Wednesday, General Fitzhugh Lee, of Virginia, the permanent President, was escorted to the chair by John L. Eubank, of Virginia and John Hagan, of Missouri, and introduced to the convention by the temporary Chairman.

General Lee addressed the convention. The difference between the time of the present and time of the past was referred to—paper and war. N. W. the speaker said, thank God, he was in New Orleans, joining with representatives from all the States of the Union, who had assembled together in peace and joy and love for the advancement of the commerce of this great country. Then he arrived in New Orleans with a body of troops, when this land was divided by civil war. The pall of that dark cloud had been removed, and the great heart of the nation—North, South, East and West—beats respectively to the best interests of the whole people of the United States.

A series of resolutions were adopted recommending Government aid to the Texas Pacific Railroad, and that the United States Central Pacific Railroad should be held to a strict accountability to the requirements of their charter and the laws regulating them. The resolutions also recommended that the aid already granted to the N. & O. Pacific should not be withdrawn.

In the convention yesterday Mr. Jefferson Davis spoke on a resolution relating to the improvement of the navigation of the Mississippi river, and said not only did a present action of Congress upon this important question, but every State had bound ring on that great river. There are two important obstacles to the improvement of the Mississippi river to be overcome—the caving in of its banks and the over flow of the same. The resolutions a comprehensive report were full and complete, and that had he had the drafting of them he would not have added a word to their effect, or purpose nor would he take one word therefrom. They were complete in expressing the objects to be desired for the improvement of navigation of that great river. Railroads might come and rail roads might go, but the Mississippi river would flow to the end of time, and the city of New Orleans would ultimately become one of the greatest emporiums of the world—a city of commerce second to none among the nations.

Washington Notes.

[Reported for the Alexandria Gazette.]
The joint committee on the reorganization of the army have agreed upon a bill, which will shortly be reported to both houses, and which, it is stated, will be satisfactory to all parties.

Among the nominations sent to the Senate yesterday were those of Robert M. Danzels, marshal for the western district of North Carolina, and Joshua B. Hill, for the eastern district.

Both houses of Congress adjourned yesterday at 12 o'clock, by which time several appropriation bills will be ready for consideration. The Senate will take up and act upon the resolution for investigating the late elections in the South.

It is stated that the real object of Mr. Morrill's resolution relating to the Freedmen's Bank, introduced in the Senate yesterday, is to have the Government purchase so much of the bank's real estate as it can use advantageously in order to assist small depositors with the proceeds.

Secretary Sherman has issued an order to all the sub-treasuries discontinuing the further use of gold certificates in exchange for gold deposited. Gold is to be received like greenbacks, and after the 1st of January will be paid out in exchange for greenbacks or in discharge of obligations, both by the banks and the Government at the individual option.

Prominent radicals state that a movement has been started to secure a national convention of colored people to petition Congress to carry out the provision of the 14th amendment for the reduction of the basis of representation in proportion to the number of colored voters alleged to have been deprived of their rights at the recent elections. The purpose is to demand that the South shall be deprived of the representation which it has in the House based on the colored population.

A New Railroad.—The editor of the Harrisonburg (Va.) Old Commonwealth writes from Philadelphia to his paper as follows: "Within the past week over two hundred miles of the Potomac and Ohio railroad have been put under contract, and work will be commenced on the first twenty miles from Harrisonburg east through Keweenaw, within the next ten days, to be completed no later than October next. Work will be commenced on other portions of the line at an early day. This narrow gauge railroad is to extend from Harrisonburg, on the Kanawha, to Quantico on the Potomac river, a distance of about three hundred and twenty-five miles."

From Washington.

SPECIAL TO THE ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE.
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 6.
Mr. Beverly Douglas arrived here today. All the Virginia congressional delegation were since the session commenced.

Judge Harris has not been able to get a paper containing the full text of the Governor's message, and is consequently not prepared to express an opinion upon it. He has read a summary of it, however, and seems to think that the proposition of the bondholders to reduce the principal and interest of the State debt at ten per cent can be accepted the sum that will have to be raised to pay the interest will be as large as is now required to pay the six per cent interest.

No time has been set for the reassembling of the Power committee, and Mr. Reed, one of the members, says he has not even been notified that a meeting was to be contemplated.

Though both houses of Congress have adjourned until Monday, but few committees are at work, the members as a general thing being about, and in divers other ways occupying their ease and dignity.

The national capital is duller than usual, the commencement of a session, but among comparatively few strangers here not a number are trying to get offices either themselves or for their friends.

Senator Jones, of Nevada, and Mr. Egan, of the House, have gone to Richmond to get acquainted with the members of the Virginia delegation, and to see the water of the canal and lay a railroad track along its bed from Richmond to Danvers, and tapping the C. & O. R. R. at Clinton Forge.

A telegram received at the secret service division of the Treasury to day reports the arrest of Robert Brown, of Bertram, Iowa, charged with passing counterfeit silver bar dollars.

INDIAN BUREAU.

The joint commission having under consideration the proposed transfer of the Indian Bureau from the civil to the military department, heard the views of Hon. Carl Schurz, Secretary of the Interior, this morning, commencing his remarks the Secretary disclaimed any personal desire to retain the control of the Indian service under the Interior Department, and said in this connection that the branch of the Department's business is troublesome and thankless. It is not, he considered it best for the service and government generally that the management of Indian affairs remain where it is. He thought the last one to advocate it